04/04/2003

10:07

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI MPLS > 09941011120417038729327# FAX RECEIVED

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI L.L.P.

APR 0 7 2003

A REGISTERED LIMITED LIABILITY PARTNERSHIP 225 SOUTH SIXTH STREET SUITE 4850

GROUP 3600

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-4320

TELEPHONE: 612/321-2800

FACSIMILE: 612/321-9600

FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION FROM: 612.321.9600 If any difficulties occur during transmission, 612.321.2800

Official

DATE:

April 4, 2003

FILE: 10111204

TO:

Examiner Dennis L. Dorsey

COMPANY: U.S. PTO

FAX NO.:

(703) 872-9327

FROM:

John F. Klos

SENDER'S

PHONE:

612-321-2806

RE:

Ser. No. 09/825,202

Attached are the following:

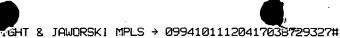
1. Response to Final Office Action (7 pages).

CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8:

I hereby certify that this paper and any papers referred to herein are being sent via facsimile to Commissioner for Patents telephone number 703-872-9327 on April 4, 2003.

John F. Klos:

10:07



ND.248 **FAX RECEIVE**

GROUP 2600

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

INAN
1 .1-11
Official

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Washington, D.C. 20231

RESPONSE TO EXAMINER'S OFFICE ACTION

In response to the Office Action mailed on February 25, 2003 please enter the following Amendments and Remarks to the above-captioned application.

In the claims:

Cancel claims 1-11 and 24-28.

41. (amended) A method of building a deck structure comprising the steps of: providing a deck frame including a series of joists;

providing a plurality of modular panels, each panel being of a layered construction including a top element and a bottom element, said top element being of a material providing substantial compressive strength and limited tensile strength, said bottom element being of a fiber-reinforced material, each panel having at least one groove;

providing an elongated spline element having a length substantially greater than a distance between an adjacent pair of joists, whereby the spline element spans across more than two joists of the deck frame;

placing a row of panels across the series of joists of the deck frame;

25269611.1